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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Noriko Minamino

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP

901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

MAHMOOD, REZWANUL

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/580,271	Applicant(s) MINAMINO ET AL.	
	Examiner REZWANUL MAHMOOD	Art Unit 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/11/09, 08/03/06, 05/25/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-13 are pending in this office action.

Requirement Under 37 CFR 1.105

Applicant and the assignee of this application are required under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide the following information that the examiner has determined is reasonably necessary to the examination of this application. The justification for this request is that the instant specification informally cites the following documents:

In Page 2 line 9, ISO 13584/PLIB standard.

In Page 2 line 19, IEC 61360.

In Page 3 line 25, ISO 6523 "Structure for Identification of Organizations and Organization Parts"

Certified English translation of foreign priority document JP 2004-17796 and 2004-178015.

The fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 are waived for those documents submitted in reply to this requirement. This waiver extends only to those documents within the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 that are included in the applicant's first complete communication responding to this requirement. Any supplemental replies subsequent to the first communication responding to this requirement and any information disclosures beyond the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 are subject to the fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97.

The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain an item of requirement information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained may be accepted as a complete reply to the requirement for that item.

This requirement is an attachment of the enclosed Office action. A complete reply to the enclosed Office action must include a complete reply to this requirement. The time period for reply to this requirement coincides with the time period for reply to the enclosed Office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6-8, 11, and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 1 of claims 1 and 11, the phrase "comprising;" should be "comprising:".

In line 1 of claims 6-8 and 12, the phrase "comprising" should be "comprising:".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 1 mentions an apparatus which is non-statutory for at least the reason that it is not tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable. Further, apparatus comprising “units”, *per se*, is not an actual apparatus, instead being non-functional descriptive material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (US Publication 2009/0024997) in view of the publication “Reducing parts diversity in product design: a data centered approach”, July 2003 Proceedings of CE’2003 by Chochon et. al.

With respect to claim 1, Kobayashi discloses a database management apparatus

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(Kobayashi: Abstract, lines 1-14; paragraph 88, lines 1-7; Figure 2) comprising;

a extracting unit that extracts detailed information on at least one of a class and a property (Kobayashi: Paragraph 50, lines 1-3; Paragraph 76, lines 1-7; Paragraph 90, lines 1-18; Paragraph 134, lines 1-17; Figure 9);

However, Kobayashi does not explicitly disclose information included in at least one referenced dictionary and which is referenced to by a referencing dictionary;

The Chochon reference discloses information on classes and properties in a dictionary which is referenced to by a referencing dictionary (Chochon: Page 4, Column 1 lines 8- 24 and 39-56; Page 4, Column 2 lines 30-59; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Figure 2-3);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Kobayashi with the teachings of Chochon to extract information on at least one of a class and a property included in at least one referenced dictionary which is referenced to by a referencing dictionary to allow to centralize all relevant technical data in a database and to facilitate selection by means of property value (Chochon: Page 3, Column 1 lines 35-36; Page 7, Column 2 lines 14-15).

Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses:

the referencing dictionary having a hierarchical structure in which a lower class inherits a property of an upper class (Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Figure 3),

each of the class and the property having an identifier which uniquely identifies

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each of the class and the property (Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Figure 3; Kobayashi: Paragraph 76),

the referenced dictionary having a referencing relation described by the identifier as a pointer with the referencing dictionary (Chochon: Page 4, Column 1 line 39-56; Column 2 lines 30-59; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2-3),

a adding unit that adds the extracted detailed information to the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 155, lines 1-5; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2), and

an output unit that outputs added referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 161, lines 1-9; Paragraph 239, lines 1-9; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 2, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detailed information includes one of a name and a definition concerning the class or the property (Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Figure 3; Kobayashi: Paragraph 76).

With respect to claim 3, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the adding unit organizes the referencing dictionary by adding detailed information on the property referenced to in the referenced dictionary to

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the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 155, lines 1-5; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 4, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the adding unit organizes the referencing dictionary by adding detailed information on the property which is referenced to, and detailed information on the class which defines the property in the referenced dictionary to the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 161, lines 1-9; Paragraph 239, lines 1-9; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 5, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the adding unit organizes the referencing dictionary by adding detailed information on the property which is referenced to, detailed information on the class which defines the property, and detailed information on a supplier in the referenced dictionary to the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 161, lines 1-9; Paragraph 239, lines 1-9; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Fig 2).

With respect to claim 6, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a dictionary displaying unit that displays organized content of the referencing dictionary in the hierarchical structure including a referencing relation (Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figures 2-3; Kobayashi: Figure 2; Figure 9).

With respect to claim 7, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a dictionary data organizing scheme adding unit that adds information on a specifying scheme of an extraction extent of at least one of the referenced dictionary which the referencing dictionary references to, to the referencing dictionary, when a part of the referenced dictionary is extracted for an organization of the referenced dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 155, lines 1-5; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 8, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a dictionary data organizing scheme specifying unit, that brings about a specification of the information on the specifying scheme of the extraction extent of the referenced dictionary to be added to the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 155, lines 1-5; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 9, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input unit that accepts an input of the organized referencing dictionary
(Kobayashi: Figure 2; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2);

a dictionary data organizing scheme determining unit that makes determination on the information on the specifying scheme of the extraction extent of the referenced dictionary included in the accepted referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 50, lines 1-3; Paragraph 76, lines 1-7; Paragraph 90, lines 1-18; Paragraph 134, lines 1-17; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57), and

a dictionary database structuring unit that structures the referencing dictionary according to one of a result of the determination by the dictionary data organizing scheme determining unit and a previously stored version of the information on the specifying scheme of the extraction extent of the referenced dictionary (Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 lines 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Fig 2; Kobayashi: Figure 9).

With respect to claim 10, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the dictionary data organizing scheme determining unit makes determination by reading out the information on the specifying scheme of the extraction extent of the referenced dictionary to be added to the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 155, lines 1-5; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 4, Column 1 lines 39-44; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 11, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus

according to claim 9, further comprising;

a duplicate data processing specifying unit that previously specifies which is to be put precedence between the result of determination by the dictionary data organizing scheme determining unit and the previously stored version of the information on the specifying scheme of the extraction extent of the referenced dictionary, when data in the result of determination is not consistent with corresponding data in the information on the specifying scheme (Chochon: Page 3, Column 2 lines 1-33; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 12, Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses the apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising

a dictionary data organizing scheme displaying unit that displays the information on the specifying scheme of the extraction extent for at least one of the referenced dictionary which is referenced to by the referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 161, lines 1-9; Paragraph 239, lines 1-9; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

With respect to claim 13, Kobayashi discloses a method for managing a database, comprising:

extracting detailed information on at least one of a class and a property (Kobayashi: Paragraph 50, lines 1-3; Paragraph 76, lines 1-7; Paragraph 90, lines 1-18; Paragraph 134, lines 1-17; Figure 9);

However, Kobayashi does not explicitly disclose information included in at least

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one referenced dictionary and which is referenced to by a referencing dictionary;

The Chochon reference discloses information on classes and properties in a dictionary which is referenced to by a referencing dictionary (Chochon: Page 4, Column 1 lines 8- 24 and 39-56; Page 4, Column 2 lines 30-59; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Figure 2-3);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Kobayashi with the teachings of Chochon to extract information on at least one of a class and a property included in at least one referenced dictionary which is referenced to by a referencing dictionary to allow to centralize all relevant technical data in a database and to facilitate selection by means of property value (Chochon: Page 3, Column 1 lines 35-36; Page 7, Column 2 lines 14-15).

Kobayashi in view of Chochon discloses:

the referencing dictionary having a hierarchical structure in which a lower class inherits a property of an upper class (Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Figure 3),

each of the class and the property having an identifier which uniquely identifies each of the class and the property (Chochon: Page 4, Column 2, lines 30-59; Page 4, Column 1 39-44; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Figure 3; Kobayashi: Paragraph 76),

the referenced dictionary having a referencing relation described by the identifier as a pointer with the referencing dictionary (Chochon: Page 4, Column 1 line 39-56; Column 2 lines 30-59; Page 5, Column 1 lines 1-11; Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57;

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Figure 2-3);

adding the extracted detailed information to the referencing dictionary

(Kobayashi: Paragraph 155, lines 1-5; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2), and

outputting added referencing dictionary (Kobayashi: Paragraph 161, lines 1-9; Paragraph 239, lines 1-9; Figure 9; Chochon: Page 6, Column 1, lines 48-57; Figure 2).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REZWANUL MAHMOOD whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164

September 14, 2009

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164